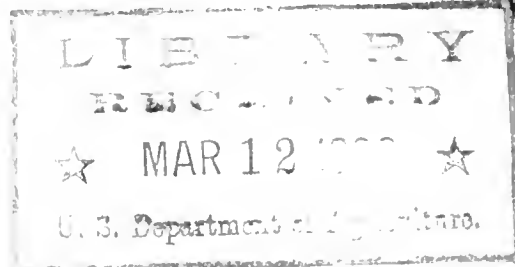


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Rose Letter
AND PLANT RESEARCH REVIEW

EDITED BY
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JACKSON & PERKINS NURSERIES

NEWARK, NEW YORK STATE

DECEMBER 1st 1937

On September 25, while making a tour of rose centers of the East, Dr. J. H. Nicolas, head of the Research Department of Jackson & Perkins Company, died unexpectedly, thus ending 8 years of research and hybridizing of roses with us at Newark. His death is mourned not only by his associates here in Newark, but throughout the rose world by the legions of friends he had made in the course of his many-sided career as scientist, author and lecturer. Jackson & Perkins Company feels honored to have had the privilege of this long association with Dr. Nicolas and regrets that his passing should have come at the height of his career and at a time when his work was still in full progress.

For my own part, I feel deeply the loss of a cherished friend, a stimulating companion and an enthusiastic co-worker of penetrating intelligence and unfailing integrity.

C. H. Perkins, President
JACKSON & PERKINS COMPANY

TO CONTINUE RESEARCH AND HYBRIDIZING WORK ESTABLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
DR. J. H. NICOLAS. EUGENE S. BOERNER TO HEAD PLANT RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Boerner is fitted by training and experience to carry on in Dr. Nicolas' place. He studied horticulture and floriculture at the University of Illinois, graduating in 1917. He has been with this company since 1920, spending much of his time in close association with Dr. Nicolas, whose work he followed when Dr. Nicolas was on his European trips and while he was ill a year ago. He has made several trips to European horticultural centers in the interest of this department.

In his new position, Mr. Boerner will dissociate himself from the commercial branches of the business and will devote his time and attention to research. He will carry on the work with Roses and also will continue the research with Delphiniums and other Perennials which he has conducted for years.

He will, of course, continue the "Rose Letter and Plant Research Review," this being his first issue.

JACKSON & PERKINS COMPANY

NOTICE: The Rose Letter is published at intervals and sent without charge to prominent Rosarians, Editors, Writers and leading Horticulturists. Others, \$1.00 annually. The object of this letter is to give the results of tests in our Research Gardens, and to digest the rose news of America and many foreign countries in which Jackson & Perkins has connections. Material may be reprinted without credit.



EUGENE S. BOERNER

GREETINGS TO THE MANY FRIENDS OF THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

It was in Paris, after my visit to the South of France, that the news reached me of the death of my dear friend, Dr. Nicolas. It was my sad task to carry the word of his untimely passing to his many long-time associates and admirers in the European rose world.

Back in Newark, I am attempting to pick up the threads of his work and to chart my course in his footsteps. It is with a sense of sadness, over the loss of a friend, and at the same time inspiration at having been chosen to carry on, that I approach this great responsibility.

I feel it is my great fortune that I was for so many years closely associated with Dr. Nicolas and that he shared and discussed with me his hopes and goals in his rose work. I hope to follow thru on many of the projects he had in mind.

Sharp in my recollections are many six A.M. sessions in the rose garden in Newark with him and Mr. Perkins when we caught the roses with the first flush of their opening. I can still hear his voice exclaiming fervently over the soft blendings or clarity of colors which the heat of the midsummer sun had not yet been able to dilute or transform.

I shall be greatly aided in my work by having possession of Dr. Nicolas' notes, horticultural papers and books, which Mrs. Nicolas has kindly passed on to me.

I anticipate arduous work in my new position, but also a great deal of pleasure. I am counting on your continued cooperation toward the furthering of the welfare of the rose and horticulture in general. I hope that you will relate to me your experiences and call on me for any help that I may be able to offer and I hope we shall be able to retain your friendship and have it grow with the years before us.

NOTES ON THE FALL SHOW

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, OLYMPIA HALL

The English are very business-like with their shows. Most of the people attending, and the show was crowded continuously, were definitely on a hunt of new and different things for their gardens and the tradesmen booked many orders for fall and spring deliveries.

The main floor was ablaze with a great assortment of shrubs in the full glory of their autumn coloring. Our British cousins do appreciate the vivid coloring of foliage and berry as illustrated at the show, with many of our own Viburnums, some Crataegus, Nyssa, Euonymus and many others. Incidentally, the fall coloring in England is much like that of our own Northeastern United States.

Hardy Asters, or Michaelmas Daisies as they are generally called by the Britons, were displayed in striking masses. The size of some new varieties will be a revelation to us when they cross the Atlantic - and the range of colors, also.

It is very heartening to see staid business men carrying open bunches of Michaelmas Daisies in the streets of London. Flowers are a more intimate part of the life of the English, who are, fortunately, not so self-conscious as we in expressing their appreciation of them.

Delphiniums at the show were indifferent because of the lateness of the season, but Tritomas, which are too little appreciated in this country, but which the English assiduously cultivate under the formal name of Kniphophia, were a mass of striking color on all sides. These brilliant "red hot poker" in combinations of orange, pure gold yellow and red, were staccato accents wherever displayed.

I spent two days at the show and even then felt I might have spent more time to advantage.

I visited the horticultural exhibit of the Paris Exposition, where espalierd trees were used interestingly as a dominant note in the outdoor plantings. Unfortunately most of the trees had shed their leaves early, and in this connection, I remember being advised that all plantings for the World's Fair in New York City in 1939 will be completed a year in advance so that woody material will be well established, and I hope will avoid such unfortunate occurrence. The formal gardens and cut flowers, inside the building at Paris where the material was frequently changed, were shown at a high standard of design and quality of material.

FLORIBUNDA CLASS OF ROSES POPULAR IN GERMANY

In Germany, while visiting Wilhelm Kordes, leading German hybridizer, and his fellow hybridizer, Mat. Tantau, I was most impressed by the great extent to which the new class of Floribundas is being used. Municipalities planted as many as ten thousand of one variety to make a lavish display of massed color. Private individuals are using them not only in their rose beds but in foundation plantings, perennial borders and shrub borders. This suggests to me that we Americans would do well to liberalize our views regarding the use of roses. Why not incorporate them with other plantings about the home premises, rather than restricting them to the rose garden?

(Floribundas continued)

The Floribunda group, intermediary between the hybrid tea and the polyantha, is particularly adaptable to landscape use and is quickly finding its place and justifying its existence.

Among many other people of our country who have not previously been successful with roses, I predict a great future for the more easily cultivated Floribunda branch of the rose family.

MORE ABOUT THE FLORIBUNDAS

Floribunda is a group especially bred for mass planting and garden decoration. It is the development of an idea evolved from the necessity for having an intermediary group between the very rugged small flowered Polyanthas and the large flowered Hybrid Teas.

The Floribunda is a group not a strain because these roses are derived from various arctic species sources.

As this group develops we find sturdy, hardy, very bushy plants of medium height. They have carried the continuous blooming habit of the Polyanthas with the larger flowers of its other parents.

The flowers are fairly large ranging in petalage from single to very double. A distinctive feature is the persistence with which the flowers retain their shape and color even in the hottest summer sun. And when cut, they grace milady's vases in center pieces and about the house for surprisingly long periods. The group has the cluster type of inflorescence, with occasional flowers coming singly.

The bushes are rugged enough so that they will thrive in regular borders and perennial borders and as attractive edgings.

The rose is pre-eminently a garden flower and this new group brings it more closely to the perennial status in garden ornamentation; permanence, continuity of bloom, and ease of culture.

Of course, these varieties produce the best mass effects when planted closely fourteen or fifteen inches apart in large groups, masses or borders. They will blanket the ground and the foliage will be almost hidden by the blooms.

E. S. Boerner

FLORIBUNDA VARIETIES NOW AVAILABLE

Some of these varieties have previously been classed under either Hybrid Teas or Hybrid Polyanthas and are now segregated in this class to offer a more intelligent separation to the less initiated garden enthusiasts.

To the varieties Anne Poulsen, Carillon, White Gruss an Aachen, Rochester, Gruss an Aachen, Snowbank, Permanent Wave, Else Poulsen, Golden Main and several others, we are adding this year several very attractive novelties.

ROSE LETTER—*Continued*

(Floribundas continued)

SMILES (Nicolas 1937) - A lovely variety deserving the name. It "smiles" at you at all times. The color is brilliant salmon pink. The flowers are semi-double about 3 inches across, and are produced in great masses all the time. They are superb for obtaining a pink effect, as they hang on well and lighten only a few shades as they fade. The plants are medium growing, branching and have handsome foliage. The variety was much admired in test gardens this year.

RONSARD (Gaujard 1937) - A plant of great interest. In the first place, it is a Rugosa Hybrid, and is the Rose referred to in Dr. Nicolas' Rose Odyssey, having once had the name Rugosa Nicolas. The bud and flower, true Capucine coloring with a flash of vermillion on the inside and Nanking yellow on the outside of the petals. The bush is vigorous and the foliage hard and resistant. Nature has decided to protect this exotic coloring and has given us thorniest of thorny stems. In spite of this it will sooner or later find a place in most gardens for it keeps flaunting its brilliance at all times, carrying clusters of buds or flowers most every day of the season.

NEW GARDEN ROSES TO BE FEATURED DURING SPRING 1938

. ALICE HARDING (Mallerin, France) Pat. No. 202 - The perfected Souvenir de Claudius Pernet for years the goal of all hybridizers. Color is rich sunflower yellow uniform and without shading, on which the sun has but little effect. An exhilarating perfume adds to its beauty. Excellent cut flower but also an ornamental garden variety because of its steady production. This rose was dedicated to Mrs. Edward Harding of New Jersey by the French National Horticultural Society as a gesture of appreciation for Mrs. Harding's interest in French hybridizers of all flowers. The Society opened a contest and the winning rose is a product of Ch. Mallerin, the great French Hybridizer. Gold Medal of the American Rose Society.

JEAN COTE (Gaujard, France) Pat. App. for - An opulent and fragrant rose, large and full to the center but of gracefully imbricated form. Clear orange apricot assuming toward the end an overcast of light carmine. Not a fading but an interesting mutation of tint. A medium growing plant producing steadily throughout the season. It is superb even in midsummer and when established it waxes large and vigorous. The color is arresting. Horticulturally it is also interesting in that it is pure succession in the famous Pernet-Ducher strain and was developed by M. Pernet's successor Jean Gaujard.

ROME GLORY (Aicardi, Italy) Pat. App. for - A red Dame Edith Helen but of larger size and opening well in all weather. Heavy ovoid bud, crimson, evolving in a large very double bloom of superb form. The color graduates to a lighter tint, toward the center. Very perfumed. Long stems for cutting. Open blooms have been likened to perfect greenhouse American Beauties. Extraordinarily robust and hardy plant. Was officially selected to memorialize the third millenium of the founding of the Eternal City by Romulus and Remus, who, abandoned, says the legend, had been fed and protected by a she-wolf.

AND THESE IRISH ROSES FROM THE FAMOUS HOUSE OF MCGREDY

MC GREDY'S PINK (McGredy, Ireland) - A rose of conservative tints, but much needed in its color field. The salmon and yellow suffusion enliven the pink and give it a warm glow and a zest. The bud is high centered and perfectly formed, opening gracefully to a lovely large and double bloom. The plant is bushy hardy and an ideal garden rose. The habit of growth is vigorous, free and branching and there are but few thorns. To those who want a warm pink, beautifully formed flower we strongly recommend it.

MC GREDY'S PRIDE (McGredy, Ireland) - As the flower starts to unfurl we have inside a combination of orange and salmon pink flushed and veined with saffron yellow. The outside is yellow cadmium flushed flesh-pink. The buds are long and pointed and large full flowers are of a wonderful brilliancy, and are borne freely on long stout stems. The blooms are remarkably long lived both in the garden and when cut. As a garden and bedding rose this variety is outstanding, and it is bound to please.

REX ANDERSON (McGredy, Ireland) - This variety can be called cream white, for it has a slight tinge of ivory. The large blooms are well formed with open center and generally come in clusters on strong upright stems. It is delicately fragrant. The plant is vigorous and branching, is amply clothed with handsome leathery foliage and resistant to diseases. Try disbudding it and see the large exhibition size blooms you will get.